

DESCRIPTIONS OF NEW OR RARE AUSTRALIAN
FISHES.

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PTEROPLATEA AUSTRALIS. sp. nov.

Disk rather less than twice as wide as long ; tail three-eighths of the length of the disk, without spine or rudimentary fin, but with faint indications of a cutaneous fold above and below. Spiracle provided with a tentacle. Teeth with a long median and two short lateral cusps. Skin smooth. Dark-brown, almost black above ; white beneath ; tail with two interrupted white rings about midway.

This fine species, belonging to a genus hitherto unknown from Australia, was forwarded some years ago by Mr. J. Brown from Cape Hawke, N. S. Wales, and measures twenty-three inches across the disk.

It is possible that this may be identical with the Mediterranean *P. altavela*, but in the absence of books of reference it is impossible to settle the question satisfactorily owing to the insufficient description given in the British Museum Catalogue.

Registered number in the Australian Museum A. 9357.

CIRRHITICHTHYS APRINUS, C. & V.

B. VI. D. 10/12-13. A. 3/6-7. V. 1/5. P. 7/7 or 8/6.
C. 15. L. lat. 42. L. trans. 4/11.

Length of head rather more than 4, of caudal fin $5\frac{1}{3}$, height of body $2\frac{3}{4}$ in the total length. Diameter of eye $\frac{1}{4}$ of the length of the head, and $\frac{6}{7}$ of that of snout. Interorbital space concave, from $\frac{2}{3}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ of the diameter of eye. Cleft of mouth oblique. Maxilla reaches to the vertical from anterior margin of eye. Preorbital and post-temporal serrated. Vertical limb of preopercle strongly serrated ;

the posterior two-thirds of the lower limb armed with teeth which grow gradually smaller from behind; the anterior portion entire. A weak opercular spine. Villiform teeth with a greatly enlarged outer row in both jaws; lower jaw with two or three strong, and slightly curved lateral caninoid teeth; vomer with a semi-circular, palatines with narrow divergent bands of villiform teeth. Dorsal spines moderately strong, the fifth, sixth, and seventh, about equal and longest, equal to the distance between the snout and the hind margin of the eye; the first ray considerably, the second sometimes moderately filiform. Anal commences beneath the third dorsal ray, its second spine is much the longest and strongest, about equal to the longest dorsal spines. Simple pectoral rays much longer than the branched, ordinarily the second and third are the longest, but sometimes the fourth, and even the fifth, are equal to them; they are about $\frac{2}{7}$ of the total length. In some the ventrals reach beyond, in others not so far as, the vent. Caudal emarginate. Scales moderate; cheeks and opercles scaly; basal half of the fins more or less so.

Colors. Red above, white below the lateral line. Six broad dark vertical bands on the body, the first from the anterior dorsal spines to the root of the pectoral, and the two last on the free tail. Head spotted with vermilion and black, and with two narrow lines across it, the anterior of which passes through the eye; a narrow deep yellow line on the outer margin of the dorsal membranes; soft dorsal with blue-edged golden spots; the elongate ray banded red and white; the other fins pinkish; caudal without bars. Irides brassy; eyelids vermilion. In one specimen the red ground-colour is replaced by greenish-olive.

Our three examples are of nearly similar size, the largest being $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches; they were trawled off Shark Reef, Port Jackson; they differ from *Cirrhites graphidopterus*, Bleek, which he makes identical with *C. aprinus*, C. & V., and of which the Australian Museum possesses one of the types, in the greater height of the body only. The genus *Cirrhitichthys*, Bleeker, is identical with and takes precedence of *Neocirrhites*, Castelnau.

SEBASTES SCABER. sp. nov.

D. 12. 1/9. A. 3/5. V. 1/5. P. 18. C. 14. L. lat., circ. 37.

Length of head $2\frac{5}{8}$, of pectoral fin $3\frac{1}{2}$, height of body $3\frac{3}{4}$ in the total length. Diameter of eye $3\frac{1}{6}$ in length of head, rather more than the length of the snout; interorbital space $\frac{1}{2}$ a diameter of the eye. Maxilla reaches to below the last third of the orbit. Four strong spines at the pre-opercular angle. A single spine at the antero-superior angle of the eye; a row of strong spines from the supraorbital ridge to nearly opposite the origin of the dorsal fin; two opercular spines; a strong spine on the humeral bone. A moderate nasal tentacle. Teeth on the jaws and vomer; none on the palate. The sixth dorsal spine is the longest, about equal to the diameter of the eye; the thirteenth spine twice as long as that which precedes it; soft dorsal rather higher than the spinous. Anal much higher than the dorsal, the second spine being very strong, and one-half longer than the longest dorsal spine; it commences beneath the twelfth dorsal spine; the pectorals reach to opposite the first anal ray. Upper part of the head and interorbital space scaly. Lateral line armed with sharp curved spines pointing backwards.

Colors. Roseate with irregular dusky blotches.

The specimens from which the description has been drawn up were taken by the trawl on Shark Reef during August last; both are very small, the larger being but $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches in total length.

Registered numbers in the Australian Museum B. 8450,-51.

PLATYCEPHALUS ARENARIUS. sp. nov.

D. 7/13-14. A. 13-14. V. 1/5. P. 13/7. C. 18.

Length of head $3\frac{1}{4}$, of caudal fin $6\frac{2}{5}$, height of body $9\frac{1}{2}$ in the total length. Diameter of eye $6\frac{1}{4}$ in the length of head and $1\frac{9}{10}$ in that of snout. Interorbital space slightly concave, $\frac{2}{3}$ of the diameter of the eye. Median ridge faint, interrupted between and for some distance behind the eyes, appearing again on the occiput as a short sharp ridge. Width of head inside preopercular spines $\frac{3}{4}$ of its length. Maxillary extends to below first third of

eye. Supra-orbital margin with a single minute anterior spine; two slightly divergent smooth occipital ridges with offshoots towards the central ridge; outside of these is an almost obsolete ridge, also smooth, which terminates at the origin of the lateral line in a minute spine. Two parallel smooth ridges originate in a pair of short preorbital spines, and terminate in a pair of rather divergent strong preopercular spines, the lower of which is a third longer than the upper; no visible opercular spines. An angular crenulated subopercular flap, beneath the preopercular spines. Anterior nostril with a simple tubular tentacle. Lower jaw the longer. Maxilla with a broad band of villiform teeth in front, gradually narrowing posteriorly; an edentate patch at the symphysis, bordered by larger teeth, the largest behind; mandibles with a lateral row of small curved teeth, and villiform patches in front; two small patches on the vomer; a row on the palatines. First dorsal spine so minute as hardly to be visible; the second the longest $1\frac{9}{10}$ in the length of head; soft dorsal highest anteriorly. Ventrals long, reaching to the third anal ray, $1\frac{3}{10}$ in the length of the head. Anal commences opposite the soft dorsal. Caudal truncate. Lateral line smooth.

Colors. Light yellowish-brown above, white below. Spines and rays of dorsals with chestnut bands, webs immaculate. Last five webs of anal dark, remainder and rays white. Ventral and pectoral rays banded. Ground color of caudal pure white, the upper half with three or four oblique parallel brown bands, the lower with two much broader black stripes.

Sand Flathead of Sydney; the specimen described is ten inches in length and was trawled in Middle Harbour.

LEPIDOTRIGLA PLEURACANTHICA, Rich.

B. VII. D. 9/13. A. 10. P. 11/3. V. 1/5. L. lat. 58. L. trans. 5/11.

Length of head $4\frac{1}{6}$, of caudal fin $5\frac{1}{2}$, height of body $6\frac{1}{10}$ in the total length. Diameter of eye $3\frac{2}{7}$ in length of head, and $\frac{7}{10}$ of that of snout. Interorbital space deeply concave, $\frac{2}{3}$ of the diameter of eye. Nasal profile abrupt, slightly concave. Three strong and

several small spines on the antero-superior angles of the orbits ; a finely serrated ridge from thence to the postero-superior angles, where there is a short strongly toothed bony protuberance. Pre-orbital slightly serrated and emarginate. A short blunt spine at the preopercular angle which is produced. Two opercular spines, the lower much the longer. Scapula with two parallel serrated ridges, the upper of which terminates in a spine ; a single strong supra-scapular spine. The maxilla extends to the vertical from the first third of the eye. The two anterior dorsal spines serrated in front ; the third the longest, equal to the distance between the snout and the posterior edge of the orbit. Anal commences opposite to the fifth dorsal ray. The pectorals reach to the second anal ray, and are $3\frac{2}{3}$ in the total length. The ventrals reach to the vent. Caudal emarginate ; scales small, with 58 on the lateral line, each of which bears a strong curved tooth, having at its base below a second smaller rather divergent spine. The keeled row along the base of the dorsal is well developed, and consists of 20 scales, some of which, especially those in front, are bifid.

Colors. Bright red, with a few dusky markings above and lighter ones below the lateral line. A broad orange band across the white of the belly, in front of the bases of the ventrals ; mandibular region also orange. Spinous dorsal red with brown and yellow marblings, and a large black quadrangular spot, bordered with gold on the outer half of the fourth to sixth spines ; second dorsal red with a light margin, and a row of pale blue spots across the web. Anal light red, the last web and the margin white. Pectorals, outside pink densely marbled with green, yellow, and black, inside dark green at the base, deepening gradually to black near the extremity, and with a broad azure, marginal band. Ventrals red, lighter at the base, free rays tipped with gold. Caudal red with a light band across the anterior half and a light tip ; a dusky subterminal band. Lower lip with four white spots. Irides bright blue. Roof of the mouth orange.

The specimen was trawled in Port Jackson in April last, and measures 6.35 inches.